

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 /102 W

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R 141514Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6361

AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VALLETTA 0952

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PBOR, MT, LY

SUBJECT: MINTOFF STATEMENTS ON LIBYA-MALTA MEDIAN LINE DISPUTE

REF: TRIPOLI 0720

1. GOM PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF MADE TWO WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY REPLIES ON AUGUST 11 TO QUESTIONS FROM THE OPPOSITION NATIONALIST PARTY ABOUT THE MEDIAN LINE DISPUTE WITH LIBYA.

2. THE FIRST QUESTION, WHICH CONCERNED POSSIBLE DRILLING OPERATIONS BY EXXON IN THE DISPUTED AREA, AND MINTOFF'S REPLY WERE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) QUESTION: "CAN THE PRIME MINISTER STATE WHETHER EXXON HAS BEGUN OIL EXPLORATION AND DRILLING OPERATIONS IN THE CONCESSION AREA GIVEN TO IT BY THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT, AND WHICH FORMS PART OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF FALLING UNDER MALTA'S FULL SOVEREIGNTY? IF IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, WHAT IS THE (MALTESE) GOVERNMENT'S REACTION?"

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(B) ANSWER: "WE KNOW THAT LIBYA GAIVE AN OIL DRILLING

CONCESSION TO THE OIL COMPANY EXXON IN AN AREA
CLAIMED BY MALTA; JUST AS WE KNOW THAT MALTA ALSO
HAS GIVEN A CONCESSION IN AN AREA CLAIMED BY LIBYA.
ON THIS ISSUE THERE IS AS YET NO AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT.
WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY EXXON THEMSELVE"X!D0)-0526

P

?C;HT-)6AC"P"W\$)((C\$Q?DWH|W*0@XS>D#*VC|K|.T6E!

!<T;LKE\$EY@*0|RH

\$<*--2&CW

7LQ*M2"DQ#!K1Q3C*@64S>YJ 2)GC0)GD432:

ZF|,LW*!(FBJJE) CWFV\$=2)#3+H3K(FF-B4UGQFQ_*0Q-U+XT)P(FE*0H|T!K1A7J)(ZH1DR&U9ZU@F@D @EYB:@@E_>L7H

T4J/90R\$C_TPD L3,E"F!"1M 0)Z B=_8<K-U\$QC1WBZH|QO-W6N,4\$I)IGR|?;-C\$

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Disposition Authority: ifshinsr
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